

REMARKS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Final Office Action mailed August 22, 2006. In that Office Action, claims 1-13 were examined, and all were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,175,852 to Johnson et al. (hereinafter, "Johnson") in view of the article, "Performance of the IBM General Parallel File System" by Terry Jones, Alice Koniges, and R. Kim Yates (hereinafter, "Jones"). Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 11, and 13 have been amended, claims 14-20 have been added, and no claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-20 remain present for examination. Claim amendments have been made to more expeditiously forward the application to allowance. The Applicant does not admit that amendments were made to overcome the cited prior art and reserves the right to file broader claims in subsequent continuation applications.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Jones. Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103(a) rejections because the Examiner has either failed to state a prima facie case of obviousness or the claim amendments obviate the obviousness rejections. A prima facie case of obviousness can be established only when all of the following requirements are satisfied: (1) the references or combination of references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations; (2) there must be some suggestion or motivation in the references themselves to combine the references; and (3) there must be a reasonable expectation of success. *See* MPEP §§ 706.02(j) & 2143; *CFMT, Inc. v. YieldUp Int'l Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *see also* MPEP § 2143.03.

The present invention relates generally to distributed computing environments and, particularly, to a method and system for creating and maintaining lock properties for a resource or object in a distributed computing environment. More particularly, the invention relates to locking methods that extend the WebDAV protocol, or the World Wide Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning standard. A distributed environment allows multiple clients to share a

computer resource(s). Where a computer resource is shared, an embodiment of the present invention provides for a locking scheme to be used to prevent “lost update” problems from arising where two or more users modify a shared resource at the same time.

While the present invention generally relates to management of resources in a distributed environment and, more particularly, to locking methods that extend the WebDAV protocol, Johnson relates exclusively to management of distributed data processing systems involving the UNIX operating system, or other systems with *similar* characteristics to those of the UNIX operating system. *See* col. 1, lines 49-63 (the preferred embodiment of the invention “is implemented in a version of the UNIX operating system; however, the invention could be implemented in other and different operating systems.”); and col. 2, lines 52-55. *See also* col. 2, lines 52-55. Johnson thus does not relate to the WebDAV protocol.

Further, while the present invention relates primarily to sharing software-related resources, Jones relates exclusively to a hardware-based method of data access that is designed to increase the throughput, and throughput rates, of data by providing for parallel file systems. *See Jones* at § 2 (“The [General Parallel File System (GPFS)] architecture was designed to achieve high bandwidth for concurrent access to a single file . . . [t]he intended platform for this file system is IBM’s line of massively parallel computers, the RS/6000 SP, and performance is achieved with commodity disk technology. The RS/6000 SP line of machines are general purpose, high[-]end computers which scale to thousands of processors.”). *See also Jones* at § 2.3. A parallel file system requires close physical and logical ties between the processing nodes and the data repository, such as in the RS/6000 discussed in Jones. Striping data across a number of nodes, without a receiving server (such as a WebDAV server), would require each client to manage access to the data stored on each node. The Jones parallel file system is thus not functional as a DAV environment. Jones thus does not relate to the WebDAV protocol.

A. Rejections of Claims 1-12

Because neither Johnson nor Jones relates to the DAV protocol, these references fail to satisfy the first prong of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness because they fail to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, particularly in light of the new amendments to claims 1

and 11. As noted, while the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections of claims 1 and 11 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Jones, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to more expeditiously forward this application to allowance. In particular, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11, respectively, to state: "A method of locking a resource in a distributed environment communicating in a Distributed Authoring and Versioning (DAV) protocol, wherein the DAV protocol is an extension of Hypertext Markup Language (HTTP) . . ." and "A method of maintaining an advisory lock on a resource in a distributed environment communicating in a Distributed Authoring and Versioning (DAV) protocol, wherein the DAV protocol is an extension of Hypertext Markup Language (HTTP) . . ." In light of these amendments, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

Indeed, the Examiner implicitly agrees that neither Johnson nor Jones relates to the WebDAV protocol. The Examiner states, "The applicant suggests that their design involves WebDAV, essentially a protocol for sharing documents in a distributed environment (such as the web). The examiner reminds the applicant that the claims do not mention WebDAV." *Final Office Action*, Aug. 22, 2006, at 13. While the Applicant believes the claims to be allowable in their unamended form, claims 1 and 11 are herein amended to recite a DAV limitation, as noted above. As such, claims 1 and 11 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For at least the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 and 11. These claims are believed to be patentable. In addition, claims 2-10, 12, and 17-20 are believed to be patentable as these claims depend from the allowable base claims 1 and 11. Because the amendments and remarks above are believed to render the claims patentable, any remaining arguments supporting the claim rejections are not acquiesced to even though they are not directly addressed herein. The Applicant reiterates that it does not agree that the references cited teach the present invention. Amendments to the claims are made in the interest of forwarding this application to allowance and are not necessarily made to address the Office Action's rejections based on the cited references.

B. Rejection of Claim 13

Similarly, because neither Johnson nor Jones relates to the WebDAV protocol, these references fail to satisfy the first prong of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claim 13 because they fail to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, particularly in light of the new amendments to claim 13. *See discussion supra*. In particular, claim 13 has been amended to read: “A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a locked resource accessed with Distributed Authoring and Versioning (DAV) protocol messages, wherein the DAV protocol is an extension of Hypertext Markup Language (HTTP). . . .” As such, claim 13 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the new amendments to claim 13, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 13. This claim is believed to be patentable. In addition, claims 14-16 are believed to be patentable as these claims depend from the allowable base claim 13. Because the amendments and remarks above are believed to render the claims patentable, any remaining arguments supporting the claim rejection are not acquiesced to even though they are not directly addressed herein. The Applicant reiterates that it does not agree that the references cited teach the present invention. Amendments to claim 13 are made in the interest of forwarding this application to allowance and are not necessarily made to address the Office Action’s rejections based on the cited references.

Conclusion

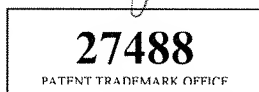
This Amendment fully responds to the Final Office Action mailed on August 22, 2006. It is recognized that the Final Office Action may contain arguments and rejections that are not directly addressed by this Amendment due to the fact that they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, the failure, if any, of this Amendment to directly address an argument raised by the Examiner should not be interpreted as reflecting the Applicant’s belief that such argument, if any, has merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other elements, not discussed in this Amendment, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve such issues, if any.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth J. Reagan
Elizabeth J. Reagan, Reg. No. 57,528
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
303.357.1644